Claims:

1.   A method for determining the representative color of any metallic paint color by a multiple regression formula of the lightness and saturation of the metallic paint color at not fewer than two angles of observation.

2.   A method, as claimed in Claim 1, for determining said representative color of any metallic paint color as a hue-tone value.

3.   A method for classifying and arranging metallic paint colors, comprising:

          determination of the representative one of the colors of each metallic paint color;

          calculation of the hue-tone value of said representative color;

          generation of coating color computer graphics representing the optical properties of said metallic paint color in a prescribed range of angles of observation; and

          preparation of a coating color map by arranging said coating color computer graphics over the hue-tone value of said representative color in a hue-tone chart on the monitor screen of a computer system.

4.   A method, as claimed in Claim 3, for determining the representative color of any metallic paint color by a multiple regression formula of the lightness and saturation of the metallic paint color at not fewer than two angles of observation.

5.   A method, as claimed in Claim 3, for calculating the hue-tone value of the representative color of any metallic paint color from spectral reflectances under a condition of at least two angles measured with a spectrophotometer.

6.   A computer graphic apparatus comprising:

          a means to determine said representative color of any metallic paint color out of colorimetric values

of said metallic paint color at a plurality of angles of observation;

a means to convert said representative color into a hue-tone value;

a means to generate coating color computer graphics of said metallic paint color from the colorimetric values of said metallic paint colors at a plurality of angles of observation; and

a means to arrange and display said coating color computer graphics over the hue-tone value in a hue-tone chart generated on a display unit.